

TAKING BABIES IN CALIFORNIA.

Our California friends are getting to be about as full of fun as the sands of our rivers are of golden treasure. One facetious editor makes us laugh heartily over a scene he witnessed in a dangerous gallery, and which he describes in most amusing style. The artist hung out a very handsome and showy sign over his door, on which was painted, in round, readable letters:—

"Babies Taken till 3 P. M., in Two Seconds."

This sign soon caught the eye of a middle-aged woman—but we will let the Californian man tell his story in his own way:—

"Bless the Lord for that!" exclaimed the woman, who, with three or four young ones in her arms, stood gazing upon the happy announcement. "Bless the Lord! Relief has come at last! Babies taken till 3 P. M. I'll go right in let him take his pick out of mine. I'm tired of them."

She started in, but was not by the worthy artist himself, who was on his way to the street. "Good morning, my dear madam, walk up. What can I do for you to-day?"

"Two of the babies commenced crying."

"Are you the man that takes babies?"

"O yes, with the greatest ease."

The old lady cast a lingering look at her young brood, as if she was bidding them adieu forever.

"I guess you ain't particular what kind of babies you take?"

"It matters not, madam, I have taken all kinds."

The old woman gave the artist a suspicious look, as much as to say, what sort of a man are you? "You have taken all kinds! Then I guess you'll have no objection to taking these bawling things here at my breast?"

"Oh, it would give me pleasure, madam, to take these crying babies. Had I not better take all of them at once?"

The old woman drew back in astonishment. "All at once!" said she. "And do you pretend to say that you will take all of these dirty, good-for-nothing, squalling brats at once?"

"Nothing would give me more delight," answered he, in his usually agreeable manner. "I have taken more than that at once, fifty times."

"Well, you can take them," said the old woman, as she approached him, "but before you do so, I would like to know what you are going to feed them on?"

The artist saw his mistake and attempted to back out.

"On second thought," he said, "I will not take your interesting little group. It would be cruel to deprive a mother of so many of her beautiful children."

"Oh! yes," she insisted, "you can take them."

"But, my dear madam," commenced the artist, turning away in alarm, "recollect that!"

"Never mind that. Take them along—There's plenty more where these came from."

The artist was compelled to explain the mistake, and the old woman left in disgust.

AMERICAN SURGEONS IN THE RUSSIAN SERVICE.—There are at present, twelve American surgeons serving in the Russian army in the south of Russia. Eight of these, Marshal, of California; Smith, of New Orleans; Weems, Hank and Johnson, of Baltimore, Md.; Hart, of Memphis, Tenn.; Parke, of Illinois, and Clarke, of New York, are stationed at Simferopol, in the Crimea. Drs. Bowditch, of New York City; Oliver, of Boston, Mass.; Morton, of Nashville, Tenn., and Smith, of Vermont, are stationed at Odessa. Thirteen others have served in the Crimea, of whom five have died there, seven have returned, and one died at Berlin, on his way to America.

Dr. Draper, of New York, died of typhus fever at Sebastopol, on the 19th of March, 1855. Dr. King, of Charleston, South Carolina, died of typhus fever at Kerch, on the 20th of March, 1855. Dr. McMillan, of New Orleans, died of cholera at Sebastopol, in June, 1855. Dr. Jones, of Maryland, died of cholera at Simferopol, on the 24th of October, 1855, and Dr. Deninger, of Reading, Penn., died of cholera at Simferopol, on the 25th of October, 1855. Dr. Stoddard, of Baltimore, Md., died at Berlin, on the 31st January, 1856. Dr. Harris, of New York; Turnpseed and Davaea, of South Carolina; Henry, of Mobile, Ala.; Eldridge, of Maryland; Read, of Norristown, Penn.; and Holt, of Georgia, have retired from the Russian service.

THE LAST CONNECTICUT MURDER.—Lucius Foot, a tavern-keeper in Woodbury, Conn., was brutally murdered on Monday night. He left his house in the evening, and was found dead in the horse shed at the Episcopal church, with his head badly crushed, and life quite extinct. He had \$600 in his pockets, which were taken by the murderer. The deceased was 44 years of age, and leaves a wife and family. This murder was committed in the immediate vicinity of the two last murders in New Haven county, which has been the scene of six murders within a short time. Henry Bradley, of Woodbury, a tanner, has been arrested as the murderer. According to rumor, Foot had won money of him, and Bradley was at Foot's tavern the evening previous. Early in the morning his horse and sleigh were seen under the shed, where the corpse was found three or four hours afterwards. The same morning Bradley went to a neighboring town, as he said, on business. Inquiries were made of his wife as to the time of his return home, and Bradley was then followed to Waterbury. His statement and that of his wife did not at all agree. A bloody hatchet was found at his residence, and no satisfactory explanation was given respecting it. His boots were found to fit the impressions of tracks left in the vicinity of the corpse.

SELF SEALING ENVELOPES INKHOUSE. The examination into the charges of poisoning against Palmer, in England, elicited evidence of a circumstance that has called public attention to the insecurity of the letter envelopes known as self-sealing or adhesive. At the instance of the accused party a postmaster had opened a letter thus sealed, shown him the contents and revealed it without detection. This can be readily done. All that is necessary is to moisten the adhesive matter, which can be done by wetting the tongue of the envelope, and allowing it to remain in that condition a few minutes. The letter then can be opened with facility, will indeed sometimes fly open, and can be resealed in the original manner, especially if the adhesive matter has originally been liberal. Otherwise a little gum is added. Detection is impossible. A London paper says: "The inference is insuspicious, and we fear we must return to the age of sealing wax, or demand a really adhesive envelope." We apprehend that it will be difficult to supply such a demand, as whatever means are requisite to seal it will be sufficient to unseal it. N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

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SUICIDE.—We learn that Mr. William Richardson, of Essex, committed suicide the 28th ult., by hanging himself in his barn. He was married about two months since, and was in good circumstances. No reason is assigned for the act.

AFFAIRS IN KANSAS. The correspondent of the St. Louis Republican telegraphs that the Kansas free state legislature met and organized

at Topeka, on the 4th instant. Gov. Robinson's message reviews the history of Kansas and endeavors to justify the action of the free state party. He says it is understood that the deputy United States marshal has private instructions to arrest the members of the legislature and state officers for treason, and that in such an event no resistance will be offered. He adds: "Let what will come not a finger should be raised against the federal authority until there be no hope of relief but revolution." Exposed as the people are to the scalping-knife on the western borders and the bowie knife and revolver on the eastern, a thorough organization of the military is called for. A correspondent at Independence, Mo., telegraphs as follows: The free state legislature has adjourned to Lawrence, and was in session there on Saturday, the members fully determined to carry out their measures. Gov. Shannon has gone there to ascertain what is being done. Violence is apprehended, but there is but little excitement along the border. One hundred Sharpe's rifles and two cannon have been intercepted at Lexington, and will be held, subject to the order of Gov. Shannon.

"Read the Journal of yesterday!" said Mrs. Partington, in the senate chamber, as she heard the president tell the clerk to read the Journal of yesterday's proceedings. "Read the Journal of yesterday, indeed! and why don't they buy one of to-day's, I wonder! I dare say it's because they have grown persimmoned, and buy yesterday's Journal, as poor people buy stale bread, because they can get it cheaper. This must be what they mean by entrenchment and reform, and a little saving is better than nothing."

She felt in her ridicule and took out a good bright looking copy of the Boston Post and tapping it upon the shoulder, who was leaning his cheek upon the railing and looking at the carved coat of arms in the eastern end of the senate chamber with an evident query in his mind whether the Indian therein shown wasn't in reality an Irishman on a time, and told him to give the Post to the president, and request him to read that instead of the Journal. The president smiled and bowed in reply, but the clerk kept right on.

THE WASHINGTON IN CONGRESS.—Israel Washburn, Jr., M. C. from Maine, G. C. Washburn, M. C. from Wisconsin, Elihu B. Washburn, M. C. from Illinois, and William D. Washburn, Assistant Clerk of the House of Representatives, are brothers. Another of the brothers has lately been elected President of the San Francisco Library Association, and will no doubt next year be brought forward as a candidate for congressional honors; while a sixth brother is the cashier and manager of a bank in the state of Maine, and is equally qualified for a seat in either house of Congress.

The brothers agree in political sentiment, and are among the most intelligent representatives of "Young America" of the progressive, wide awake school.

SLIGHTLY EMBARRASSING.—A young lawyer reading at M—, in this State, seeking to be extra polite to a pretty, young and interesting woman on the cars, a few evenings since, took her infant to hold, while she stepped forward to see to her baggage; the train started, and the lady was left. The youthful Blackstone was in a fix. He left the cars at M—, with the infant at full shoulder, and proceeded to the gate of his law partner, where he set up a vociferous howling. He dare not go farther, for the gentlemen of the house had a cross bull-dog; so he stood there in the winter midnight wind, and howled for his partner to chain up the dog, and come out and help him pursue the child.—Detroit Advertiser.

A LARGE OX.—An ox belonging to Mr. James Buffinton, of Swanton, less than six years old, was exhibited in Fall River one day last week. He weighed, on foot, 3035 pounds, and gained 9 1/2 lbs. The news gives the weight of the animal, after being slaughtered, as follows:—Sides, 900 and 992; tallow, 294; hide, 102—total, 2374. The old fellow was so big that it took three days for his sides to rot through. He was sold to Buffinton & Gray at the rate of \$16 00 9/2 a hundred. Forty cents a pound was asked for the best pieces at retail.—Boston Chronicle.

SALARIES OF JUDGES.—The Journal publishes a statement, by which it appears that Louisiana and California are the only States which pay Supreme Court Judges a higher salary than Massachusetts. The salary in Louisiana is \$7000 for the Chief Justice, and \$5000 for the Associate Judges. California pays \$8000. Massachusetts \$3500 to the Chief, and \$3000 to the Associates. Virginia, South Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi pay \$3000. New York \$2500. Pennsylvania only \$1000. Ohio \$1700. The bill which has just passed the House of Representatives fixes the salary of the Chief